

Message Text

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46

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08 L-03

TAR-02 HEW-08 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 301557Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4087

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR STEINMETZ, APHIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: MEAT INSPECTION: POSSIBLE CHANGE OF GERMAN
REGULATIONS

REF: BONN 11663

1. IN A MEETING IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON JULY 25,
STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPROVED DR. BRUEHANN'S PRO-
POSED CHANGES OF "MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS" (BONN A-246,
MAY 17, 1974). THUS QUICK PASSAGE BY THE BUNDESRAT TO
ENSURE EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 1, 1975 IS REGARDED CER-
TAIN.

2. THE ESSENTIAL CHANGE IS AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3 PRO-
VIDING THAT THE "SPECIFIED MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CAN BE
SUBSTITUTED IN INDIVIDUAL CASE BY AT LEAST EQUIVALENT
FACILITIES OR PROCEDURES, IF EQUIVALENCY IS CONFIRMED BY
THE MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY OF EXPORT
AND RECOGNIZED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTER." THE PRINCI-
PLE OF EQUIVALENCY SHALL BE APPLICABLE TO SANITARY PRO-
VISIONS INCLUDING PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS SUSPECT SLAUGH-
TER, PAUNCH CLEANING, DISINFECTION OF VEHICLES AND
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MEDICAL EXAMINATION; BUT NOT TO ANTE AND POST MORTEM IN-

SPECTION.

3. THE FULL MEANING OF THE NEW PROVISIONS CAN BE EVAL-
UATED ONLY AFTER OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION BY THE MINISTRY
AND AFTER POINT BY POINT DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS
ALREADY NOW THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL NOT SOLVE TWO HARD
CORE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS: THE MINIMUM TIME OF INSPECTION
PER ANIMAL SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE EQUIVALENCY.
FURTHERMORE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ALTERNATIVE PRO-
CEDURES TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE
MINISTRY. THIS VIEWPOINT IS ALSO REFLECTED IN DR.
RASCHKE'S STATEMENTS AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF BONN
11663.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
MINISTRY CONCERNING WHAT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES, IF ANY,
WILL BE MADE.
HILLENBRAND

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